

Remarks

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment indicated that not all claims were presented. Claims 38 and 39 were never presented, and the Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner should simply have objected to non-consecutive numbering of claims in an office action on the merits, rather than requiring additional response by the Applicant.

Claims 38 and 39 are canceled herein. Claims 1-13 and 18-31 were canceled in the previous paper. Claims 14-17 stand withdrawn from consideration. Elected claims 32-37 and 40-47 were added in the previous paper and are believed to correspond to the elected group.

Summary

The Applicants respectfully contend that each of claims 32-37 and 40-47 is in condition for allowance, and that claims 14-17 should be rejoined and likewise found to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for each of claims 14-17, 32-37, and 40-47 at the earliest possible time.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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